

Recreation and Parks Commission

ACCEPTED MINUTES

Tuesday ~ May 6, 2014 ~ 6:00 p.m.

McKinley Arts & Culture Center 925 Riverside Drive – Reno, NV 89503

MEMBERS

Nate Daniel, Chair Layne Van Noy, Vice Chair Joe Arrascada Troy Harsh Erik Scalise Tom Stille Gerry Taylor Vacancy Vacancy

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Daniel called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. A quorum was established.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nate Daniel, Troy Harsh, Erik Scalise, Tom Stille and Gerry Taylor

MEMBERS ABSENT: Layne Van Noy and Joe Arrascada

POSITIONS VACANT: Two positions vacant

ALSO PRESENT: Julee Conway – Director

Leslie Smith – Program Assistant Andy Bass – Recreation Manager

Mike Ginsburg - Sierra Nevada Community Aquatics

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT –** This item is for either public comment on any action item or for general public comment and is limited to no more than three (3) minutes for each commentator.

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR APRIL 1, 2014 MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION (For Possible Action)

It was moved by Commissioner Stille; seconded by Commissioner Harsh, to accept the April 1, 2014 minutes as presented. The motion carried: Commissioners Daniel, Harsh, Scalise, Stille and Taylor assenting; Commissioners Van Noy and Arrascada absent; and two vacant positions.

4. PRESENTATION - 2014 ADOPT-A-POOL - MIKE GINSBURG, SNCA

Mike Ginsburg of Sierra Nevada Community Aquatics gave a slide presentation about the Adopt-A-Pool program providing a short history about the program and how it was started. The presentation showed before and after pictures of the work done by volunteers and the transformation of the pool and surrounding landscape. On Saturday, May 31, the Fourth Annual Adopt-A-Pool cleanup will be held. Last year, 120 people volunteered 400 hours. This year the goal is to have 150 people volunteer. NV Energy has sponsored the program for the past three years and has offered to do so again by supplying snacks, drinks and commemorative water bottles. The Adopt-A-Pool program focuses primarily on Idlewild pool, and Traner pool will also be drained and cleaned. Staff reported that infrastructure work was done at Traner the previous year with concrete work and a complete

restoration of the gutter system. In addition to restoring the pools to a usable condition, the existing landscape will be cleaned up and donated flowers will be planted.

5. PRESENTATION – CITY OF RENO ICE RINK 2013-14 SEASON RECAP AND PROPOSED FUTURE OPERATIONS PLAN – ANDY BASS, RECREATION MANAGER

Andy Bass, Recreation Manager, gave a presentation recapping the 2013-2014 operating season of the Downtown Ice Rink. The rink was open for 69 days compared to 74 days last year. It was one of the best, if not the best, seasons the Ice Rink has experienced. This was partly due to the mild winter weather and the fact that the school winter break was increased from two weeks to three weeks. Two community skate nights were held which offered free skating to the community. UNR provided a shuttle so that more students could take advantage of community skate nights. The opening ceremony started with the tree lighting at City Hall. It was one of the most well attended and successful opening ceremonies held. Both Christmas Day and New Year's Day had over 1,100 skaters in attendance. The net proceeds from the three-month operation of the Ice Rink totaled \$110,341, exceeding last year's sum of \$84,989. The number of skaters also increased to 37,791 compared to 28,439 in FY 2012/13. The funds received from the operation of the Ice Rink go into the General Fund.

Next year's operation of the Ice Rink is going to be affected because of the reconstruction of the Virginia Street bridge and the development of the City Plaza area near the River. There is also a possibility that the reconstruction could take longer so that the Ice Rink may not be operational for two seasons. It has been proposed that the Ice Rink be relocated to Aces Stadium while the Virginia Street bridge and City Plaza are under construction. Aces Baseball would run it as a for-profit business with a three-year operating agreement with the anticipation that the operation of the Ice Rink would return to the City site. This proposal will go before the City Council on May 14th. Councilmember Jenny Brekhus voiced concerns over privatization of City park facilities going to forprofit organizations. It was her understanding that City employees would continue to operate the Ice Rink when and if it was relocated to Aces Stadium. There is also some concern as to whether the Virginia Street bridge project will go forward this year. See Attachment I.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS:

a. Discussion of Dog Off-Leash Use at Plumas Park (For Possible Action)

It was recognized that there is a need for more dog parks located in neighborhoods in the Reno area. People want to take their dogs to clean, safe parks in their neighborhoods. At the same time, people who use parks for sporting activities want the parks to be clean, safe and free of hazards such as dog feces. One option would be to change under-utilized parks into dog parks.

Public Comment:

Beth Boyles –Used to go to Plumas Park but now goes to Rancho San Rafael. Plumas Park is a neighborhood park. People would visit with one another in the early evenings and afternoons. Now, people take their dogs out at night when it is dark so they don't have to deal with the nonsense and

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the Washoe County Animal Control. There is pressure from the Church to use the fields. They don't realize that it is a community park. She doesn't like the idea of requiring dogs to be on leash. She prefers open spaces, green spaces, and community spaces for the neighborhood people to use.

Brad Allured – The park should be available to everyone. He presented a handout of pictures showing damage to the park caused by people and dogs. See Attachment 2.

Margie Hicks – The small size of Plumas Park has helped to create a community within the neighborhood. One problem she has experienced with the Virginia Lake Dog Park is that it only has one entrance and one exit. She felt trapped in the park when the entrance was blocked by a group of people. This is a poor design.

Jenny Brekhus – Strongly feels that the dog park issue needs to be resolved and that the Parks Commission is the forum for this process. Questions the 5-year license agreement with the Church and is concerned about the idea of privatization of park space. It is her opinion that the dog park should be an isolated area within the park so dogs don't run loose throughout the park. The single family demographics around the park should also be looked at because single family households tend to be dog owners. Another possible resolution would be to look at the operational costs of Plumas Park. Instead of re-sodding the entire park, perhaps smaller areas could be fenced and re-sodded every year.

Vicki LaRovere, RYSA – Chair Nate Daniel read Ms. LaRovere's comment card. On April 15th, a meeting was held with OLS, a representative for dog owners, and GBYSL to discuss the dog off-leash issue. Her major concern is the safety of kids. See Attachment 3.

Richard Jay – Read excerpt from Washoe County Ordinance 95.140 to Commission which says dogs must be on a leash in any park. The recommendation for open leash areas from the American Kennel Association (AKA) considers the ideal dog park to be one acre in size with six-foot high chain linked fencing preferably with a double gated entry system to keep dogs from escaping. It also recommends that a dog park not be adjacent to a sports complex. Furthermore, the Plumas neighborhood plan does not mention a dog park, but rather covers youth soccer activities to be held in the park. See Attachment 4.

Director Conway shared a Service Request with the Commission which was submitted to Parks and Recreation after the April meeting. Heather Riggins asked that her comments be shared with the Commission. See Attachment 5.

Director Conway provided information requested from the April meeting regarding the matter of how Portland, Oregon, enforces its dog off-leash rules. Within their Parks and Recreation Department, they have a ranger patrol consisting of eight full-time staff and, during the peak season, up to 27 part-time staff. They are not sworn police officers, but they have the ability to cite dog owners who do not obey the rules. They are assigned to the zones within the city that contain parks, and they do random patrols as well as respond to complaints.

Director Conway shared a Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful flyer (Attachment 6). Parks and

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Recreation has partnered with the City of Sparks, Washoe County, and the Health Department to work with and inform citizens on the concerns of untreated dog waste. A public service video is available and will be played on public channels. KTMB is an active partner in keeping our areas and waterways clean.

Chair Daniel said that the dog off-leash issue is much larger than a neighborhood issue; it is a regional issue. Currently there are not enough dog parks in the region; however, as it relates to Plumas Park, there will be unintended consequences. If Plumas Park becomes a dog off-leash park, more people from surrounding areas will use it and they will not be stewards of the park as those people in the neighborhood. He asked staff to look at some of the under-utilized parks in the Reno system for possible use as dog off-leash parks. Plumas Park is not the park to turn into a dog park because of its multiple users.

Commissioner Taylor brought up the idea that the Commission visit under-utilized parks in Reno for potential use as dog off-leash parks when they choose parks to tour for their July meeting.

Commissioner Stille made a motion to keep Plumas Park as it is and not make it a dog off-leash park. In addition, he directs staff to look at other under-utilized parks for dog off-leash use. The motion died for lack of a second. No action was taken on the item.

Commissioner Taylor recommended a fenced and delineated area for any dog off-leash area proposed because of safety concerns with children.

Commissioner Scalise asked staff to look at Plumas Park and what hours it is not being used for school or soccer.

b. Update on Rosewood Lakes Golf Course Management Contract

City Council approved The First Tee of Northern Nevada (First Tee) to operate Rosewood Lakes Golf Course as a non-profit for three years. They also passed a five-year option for First Tee to redevelop the course after the Southeast Connector is done. Duncan Golf will maintain and manage the course. The course is currently open as of April 29th. The City of Reno is no longer operating the course. Director Conway said First Tee will continue to be open to schools and veterans.

There were additional agreements related to defeasance of bonds. Staff sought Council approval and Council agreed to the agreements. Executed copies of the agreements will be sent to the Commission when available.

c. Update on Sierra Vista Park Concept Plan Project

Director Conway reported that on April 26th an all-day workshop was held with eight landscape architects, staff and members of the public. Three different designs were developed – *Art Meets Nature*, *Outdoor Recreation* and *A Neighborhood Park*. She thanked Commissioners Stille and Van Noy for all the work they did on this plan. The timeline on this is probably a ten-year project. Commissioner Taylor questioned the possibility of an amphitheater. Commissioner Stille said the

location for the amphitheater would not work because of the sun and wind.

d. Discussion and Selection of Park Sites For Touring at June Commission Meeting

Due to the necessary timing of the Sierra Vista Master Plan presentation at the June meeting, the annual tour of local parks is postponed until July 1st. It was recommended to tour sites that could possibly be designated as dog off-leash parks. Director Conway will develop a list of potential and realistic sites and forward to the Commission for a final decision. Commissioner Harsh recommended shutting down maintenance at parks that are under-utilized and look at using those savings for potential dog parks.

7. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT – Council Member Oscar Delgado – *No action may be taken on announcements. Limited to items that <u>do not appear elsewhere on the agenda.</u>*

None

8. STAFF LIAISON REPORT / UPDATES – Updates will be given about general Department operations including, but not limited to, FY14/15 Budget Process, Specialty License Plate, Update on Southeast Connector Roadway Project, Update on Northwest Pool Renovations and Repairs.

Budget information has been distributed. Parks and Recreation is proposing to add one maintenance staff person to fill a vacancy as well as an upgrade of the Class software system.

There is nothing new on the Specialty License Plates or the Southeast Connector Roadway. Commissioner Taylor said she read in the Reno Gazette Journal that some of the candidates running for Mayor are against the Southeast Connector. She asked if there is a possibility that the project could be halted. Director Conway said if the Corps of Engineers does not give approval to RTC for a permit, the project could be prevented from going forward until the issues are resolved. Right now, the project is on hold.

On April 30th, City Council approved the bid from Reyman Brothers Construction to do the Northwest Pool roof repairs and renovations.

The North Valleys Water Splash Park will open May 17th. See Attachment 7.

The pruning of shrubs brought up by Commissioner Stille at the last meeting was discussed. Some shrubs are cut back for sight visibility for vehicular traffic reasons and some because they get woody.

9. COMMISSIONER / LIAISON REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – No action may be taken on announcements. Limited to items that <u>do not</u> appear elsewhere on the agenda.

Commissioner Stille attended two RACC meetings and said in addition to RACC there is a Public Art Committee. He spoke about the UNR class that is developing a logo and branding for RACC. He also updated the Commission on Artown, Art Blast and the poet laureate for the City.

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Saturday, May 10th, there is a birthday party for the City of Reno from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Chair Daniel shared that the Truckee Meadows Park Foundation has an exhibition of photos at the California Building. On Saturday, in front of the California Building, a photo will be taken to replicate a 1927 photo of Reno. See Attachment 8.

The Giant Sequoias on West Plumb Lane were planted in the 1960s and are dying. Plans for the removal of the trees are underway. Commissioner Stille said the cold weather also had a negative impact on them. Director Conway distributed to the Commission the City Council memo regarding the tree removal. See Attachment 9.

- **10. IDENTIFY AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS –** Update on Sky Tavern; Park Maintenance Plan Updates (Quarterly); Update on Moana Springs Aquatic Center Project; Collaboration with UNR's Athletic Director.
- **11. PUBLIC COMMENT –** This is for general public comment limited to items that do not appear on the agenda and is limited to no more than three (3) minutes for each commentator.

None

12. ADJOURNMENT (For Possible Action)

It was moved by Commissioner Stille; seconded by Commissioner Taylor; to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. The motion carried: Commissioners Daniel, Harsh, Taylor, Stille and Scalise assenting; Commissioners Arrascada and Van Noy absent; and two vacant positions.